

## Management, Missouri Water NWD02

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**From:** Redmond, Jim [Jim.Redmond@briarcliff.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2006 3:01 PM  
**To:** Management, Missouri Water NWD02  
**Subject:** Comments on Proposed Framework Missouri River Recovery Committee

**Sierra Club's Missouri River Working Group** consists of representatives of nearly 40,000 Sierra Club members in the basin states. Representatives of the group attended both the Situation Assessment meeting in Spring 2006 and the Proposed Framework meetings in the last month. Please acknowledge timely receipt of these comments.

Page 13 Section E.

We accept the need for a Planning Committee to work toward the initial Recovery Committee but object to a nine month delay. The Situation Assessment process provided sufficient direction on a mandate for the Recovery Committee. Five months should be enough time; Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee should meet by late summer, not near the New Year.

Since the Recovery Committee makes recommendations to the agencies, there is no need to work out a perfect "charter" for it. By putting off any significant work until 2008, the Recovery Committee will not be able to help in congressional authorization of resources to recover a healthy Missouri River. Other river and water systems are organized and being better funded while we debate the shape of the table. The Recovery Committee will adapt its membership structure and working culture during its first two years at the task.

Page 15 Section F.4 For selection of the chair for both the Planning Committee and the Recovery Committee itself, we recommend that we look outside the basin for a river scientist who also has the collaborative skills needed in this position. Will any chair be given the resources needed to direct both the Planning Committee and the Recovery Committee itself?

Page 15 Section F.5.

The Selection process for the Planning Committee and the Recovery Committee should reflect the nature of the recovery task. Any applicants for membership, whether representing agricultural stakeholders, water quality, recreation or whatever, should have a background in the qualities of a healthy river. Otherwise you are planning a "status-quo committee" rather than a recovery committee. People with such background participate in other river/water Recovery Committees nation-wide; our membership should be serious about recovery.

Missouri. The Federal Working group is charged with encouraging and selecting applicants, not filling theoretical stakeholder slots. "Optimizing stakeholder representation" is less important than finding people with the background, knowledge and skill to perform the task of recovering the species and the river ecosystem. We likewise object to the new category of "At large." The stakeholder groups described in the Situation Assessment provide for enough different perspectives.

Pages 16-17 Outreach and Public Participation

The poor attendance at the Framework meetings should lead the Federal Working Group to

recognize it is time to let the Planning and Recovery committee operate by itself. It is bound to reach out to the basin and to seek public input at appropriate times, but building public comment into every meeting will handicap their efforts. Get to work!